

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES (MHRS) BOARD  
*Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties*  
 1500 Coal Run Road – Zanesville, OH, 43701

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
*(December 12, 2024)*

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**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On December 4, 2024, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities prior to regular board meeting to include: 5:00 p.m., Annual Board Member Recognition Dinner; and 5:30 p.m., “Making a Difference” presentation.

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**ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Executive Director Misty Cromwell’s calendar year-end remarks and the “Making A Difference” presentation about Allwell’s “Mobile Rapid Response Stabilization Services for Youth” are summarized in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.

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**II. CALL TO ORDER:** President Sue Hoover called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County – 1<sup>st</sup> Half of Meeting)*

Board Members excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*

There being ten board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director / Director of Finance*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance & Quality Improvement*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*

- *Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement & Crisis Services*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*
- *Terri France, Office Manager – Beginning of Pre-Meeting Activities*

**IV. GUESTS:**

*Pre-Meeting Activities:*

- *Robbie Smith, Program Director of Allwell's MRSS Services for Youth*

*Regular Board Meeting:*

- *James McDonald, President/CEO of Allwell Behavioral Health Services*

**V. AGENDA:** President Hoover noted one change to the pre-mailed agenda – the addition of item 6.f. under the Financial Issues section: *MHRS Board Staff Recognition*: LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2024, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**VI. MEETING MINUTES:** RANDI EARNEST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, ABSTAIN. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one abstention.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Deferred due to presentation of the comprehensive report covering "*Calendar Year 2024 Highlights.*"

**VIII. FINANCIAL ISSUES:** (*Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair of the Finance/Audit Committee*)

**1. Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board's Financial Reports for November 2024 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2024; 4) Dashboard Report; 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; and 6) a 'Year-to-Date' Status Report for the MHRS Board's CY 2024 Operating Budget.

◆ ***November 2024 Reconciliation Report:***

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK.

Dr. Scheerer provided a specific review of this all-inclusive report that shows deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

2. **Appropriation Transfer – CY 2024 Budget:**

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$115,801.01 FROM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE ARPA EXPENSES LINE ITEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDR A DAVIS, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDR A DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

3. **Revised Funding Request – Allwell Behavioral Health Services:**

***Finance/Audit Committee Meeting – December 2, 2024:*** Chairman Scheerer noted the Finance/Audit Committee had previously met with Allwell CEO James McDonald and several other senior staff members to review his initial funding request. | Dr. Scheerer noted that MHRS Boards cannot allocate funding for service providers to supplement reimbursements to match their actual costs. | The Committee discussed some other possible ways the MHRS Board might be able to help Allwell's financial status. | It was also recommended that Allwell look for opportunities to develop new programs that could increase revenue – in accordance with the MHRS Board's established 'buckets' RFA funding amounts. | Allwell also submitted an 11-point Recovery Plan.

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Allwell CEO James McDonald then presented a 3-part funding request:

- a. *Medicaid Reimbursement Arrearages — \$600,000:* Reported these payments are now beginning to be received and withdrew this part of the request.
- b. *Maintenance & Insurance Costs — Housing for Clients with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) — \$26,146.67.*
- c. *Uncompensated Services to Clients with SPMI — \$593,962.*

▪ It was noted that any special allocation requests presented to the MHRS Board must be accompanied by auditable back-up figures for each service area county. The requirement for auditable figures is a standard protocol designed to provide a clear and detailed picture of how the special allocation funds would be used and to ensure transparency and accountability (required by state examiners).

4. **Special Funding Request — Perry Behavioral Health Choices — BCI and FBI Background Checks:**

Theresa Kane, Executive Director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices, presented a written funding request in the amount of \$8,098 for the implementation of a BCI and FBI Fingerprint Background Check System that would also benefit all contract providers in the MHRS Board's network of care. This initiative would allow organizations to process background checks on-site, eliminating the delays and inflated costs currently faced with third-party vendors. The system would streamline operations, reduce turnaround times, and lower the per-check costs, which will ultimately enhance service delivery to clients.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$8,098 TO PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NETWORK-WIDE SYSTEM FOR CONDUCTING REQUIRED BCI AND FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS — CONTINGENT UPON THE PROPOSED CONTRACT BEING REVISED TO REFLECT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL NETWORK CONTRACT ORGANIZATIONS.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS

FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved, receiving eight positive votes. Bonnie Taylor was not present for the vote on this motion.

**5. Special Allocation Request — “Legendary Adventure Zone” Park in Belle Valley:**

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$47,437.06 TO THE NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PARK IN BELLE VALLEY THAT WILL INCLUDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TO ENGAGE IN PLAY WITH THEIR TYPICALLY DEVELOPING PEERS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved, receiving eight positive votes. Bonnie Taylor was not present for the vote on this motion.

**6. Staff Recognition:**

MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell and members of the Board of Directors expressed appreciation to the Board’s eight employees for their outstanding work in Calendar Year 2024.

DENNIS HITCHCOCK MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A TOTAL OF \$2,400 TO BE USED IN RECOGNIZING MHRS BOARD EMPLOYEES’ OUTSTANDING WORK IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAN SCHEERER, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved, receiving eight positive votes. Bonnie Taylor was not present for the vote on this motion.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**1. Next Meeting:**

The Board of Directors will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the MHRS Board Office. Committee meetings will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**X. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

► **Board Member and Staff Member Spotlights:** Jamie McGrew noted that in 2025 she plans to post board member and staff member spotlights on social media. Questionnaires will soon be sent out.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**SIGNATURES**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

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Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

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Sue Hoover, Board President